

# MASON'S COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. III.

JULY, 1869.

No. 7.

## AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(Continued.)

The ruined walls of the burnt houses standing on both sides of Broadway, New York, testified to the poverty of the place five years after the conflagration; for, although the war had ceased during that period, and the enemy had departed, no attempt had been made to rebuild them. In short, there was silence and inactivity everywhere, and the whole population was very little over twenty thousand. One can scarcely realize her rapid increase from so small a condition, at so recent a period, to her size and importance in the present day, when she may be classed, for population, wealth and trade, among the chief cities of the world.

Before the close of the year 1775, a census of the inhabitants was ordered by Congress for a due apportionment of taxes; and, on the last day but one of that year, it was resolved that the silver and gold in the treasury be counted and forwarded to the Northern army under a guard; and that the Treasurers be empowered to employ a broker to collect silver and gold in exchange for Continental Paper.

Early the next year, difficulties began to arise. The bills were sometimes refused, confidence was weakened and depreciation followed. Then came from Congress and the

Committees of Safety threatening resolutions, denouncing the refractory. It was the first serious emergency, and required prompt relief. Patriotic men, who had the means, stepped forward to redeem the bills at par; some of whom exchanged as much as a thousand pounds in silver for a like sum in paper. When Congress, hastening to propose a remedy,

*"Resolved,* That if any person shall hereafter be so lost to all virtue and regard for his country as to refuse to receive the bills in payment, or obstruct and discourage the currency or circulation thereof, and shall be duly convicted by the Committee of Safety of the district, such person shall be deemed, published and treated as an enemy of the country, and precluded from all trade or intercourse with the inhabitants of the Colonies."

(To be continued.)

## GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(Continued.)

Bermuda Coin; obv. a hog, with the numerals XII. above SOMMER ISLANDS; rev. a ship under sail, firing a gun. A coin struck for circulation in the Bermuda Islands. It was long considered unique; but another has been recently discovered, and is now in the collection of C. I. Bushnell, Esq. A third one is said to exist in a museum in Bermuda, \$80.

Lord Baltimore, or Maryland Shilling; very fine indeed. \$21.

Lord Baltimore Sixpence; companion piece to the last but much finer, being in almost proof condition; rarer than the last. \$21.50.

Lord Baltimore Groat; perfectly uncirculated; nearly proof; the rarest of the Baltimore silver series. \$26.

Lord Baltimore Penny; obverse, profile bust of Lord Baltimore, facing left; legend, CAECILIUS, DNS. TERRÆ MARIAE, &c.; reverse, two flags issuing out of a ducal coronet, DENARIUM TERRÆ MARIAE. This piece, formerly in the cabinet of James Brindley, Esq., of England, is too well known to require its history to be particularly given. It is mentioned by many English and American writers on numismatics, all of whom agree in stating it to be unique. Purchased by Mr. Mickley, at an English sale, at a price very little under £100 in gold; a sum compared with which, at that period, the price paid for any American coin, was but a trifle. In the finest possible condition, having never been in circulation. \$370.

(To be continued.)

#### HISTORY OF U. S. CENTS.

1793.

BY E. M., JR.

(Continued.)

No. 10 presents a larger planchet than any of the previous varieties. Obverse same as No. 9, with the exception of the length of the hair on bust of Liberty, which on No. 10 flows down nearer edge of coin than No. 9. Reverse: fine wreath, with larger letters than previous coins, and the 1-100 is also larger. The bow at tie of wreath is long and flat on top, with sharp angles. This side of cent is very handsomely outlined and most excellently designed.

No. 11 has short wavy hair on head of Liberty. The sprig leaves all incline to the observer's right, the only specimen having this peculiarity that has come under our notice. Letters and date small, the figures of latter well separated. Reverse has quite a small wreath, with large letters, and small 1-100, altogether a beautiful coin, unequalled in workmanship by any of the 1793 cents, excepting, perhaps, the Liberty caps.

No. 12. This cent exhibits, for the first time on U. S. coinage, the addition to the head of Liberty of cap and pole. Liberty, on this coin, is limited in the quantity of hair, and loses many of the wavy ringlets which adorn the previous issues. The hair is closely confined to the top and back of head and lays smooth very nearly to the neck, where it flows out in short wavy tresses; the neck and breast is fully developed, and in this respect differs widely from all previously described 1793's. The head is facing the observer's right, which is the same on all the 1793 cents. A Liberty pole with cap crosses the left shoulder and extends the whole width of the coin. Around the extreme edge is a fine dotted circle or milling which adds beauty to the piece, and in this respect is alike on obverse and reverse. Reverse, leaves of wreath closed, well defined; a few dots resembling small berries, intermixed with wreath; points of wreath meet at top; letters large. This coin is at least an eighth of an inch larger than any other U. S. cent.

(To be continued.)

#### MICKLEY CATALOGUES WANTED.

One or two copies of this book wanted at this office. Subscription for two years to our magazine will be given for each copy.

## THE MACKENSIE COIN SALE IN NEW YORK.

The well known, well advertised collection of coins, medals, etc., formerly the property of Mortimer L. Mackenzie, Esq., of New York, was disposed of by auction at Clinton Hall, Astor Place, on Wednesday and Thursday, 23d and 24th ultimo. The unusual condition and rarity of most of the pieces attracted a fine audience, composed of first class scientific and gentlemanly numismatists; by all odds, the most respectable in numbers and appearance of any body of men we ever saw assembled at a coin sale.

Mr. Cogan, who had the entire management of this sale, deserves great credit for the skill with which this fine cabinet was presented to the public; and also for the energy displayed in surmounting the trials and tribulations inseparably connected with the preliminary steps of a public coin sale. The prices realized for this collection in part, or as a whole, are most extraordinary when compared with the sales of previous years. We quote the most important, viz.:

1794 Dollar, purchased by Sanford, for . . . . .	\$145 00
1793 Cent, American, purchased by Rhodes, for . . . . .	145 00
1836 Dollar, "Gobrecht", purchased by Read, for . . . . .	90 00
1804 Cent, Perfect Die, purchased by Anonymous, for . . . . .	80 00
1811 Cent, Perfect Die, purchased by Anonymous, for . . . . .	72 50
1796 Kentucky Piece, purchased by Elliot, for . . . . .	57 00
1694 Carolina Elephant Cent, pur- chased by Mason & Co., for Few- smith, for . . . . .	55 00
1783 Libertas Americana C. C. pur- chased by Col. Cohen, for . . . . .	55 00
1799 Cent, purchased by Sanford, for . . . . .	55 00

1785 Immune Columbia, purchased by Wood, for . . . . .	47 50
1854 Proof Set, purchased by Cle- mens, for . . . . .	46 00
1838 Dollar, purchased by Payser, for . . . . .	45 00
1847 Proof Set, purchased by Le- wick, for . . . . .	45 00
1849 Proof Set, purchased by Le- wick, for . . . . .	42 50
1832 Cent, purchased by Keeny, for . . . . .	41 00
1851 Proof Set, purchased by Bon- ham, for . . . . .	40 00
1852 Proof Set, purchased by Bon- ham, for . . . . .	40 00
1856 Proof Set, purchased by Cle- mens, for . . . . .	40 00
1857 Proof Set, purchased by Cle- mens, for . . . . .	40 00
1793 Cent, "Wreath," purchased by Rhodes, for . . . . .	38 00
1793 Cent, "Chain," purchased by Betts, for . . . . .	32 50
1795 Cent, Thin Die, purchased by Mason & Co., for . . . . .	30 00
1809 Cent, purchased by Mason & Co., for . . . . .	\$30 00
1792 Washington Cent, purchased by Cogan, for . . . . .	30 00
1794 Cent, purchased by Keeny, for . . . . .	28 00
1822 Cent, purchased by Mason & Co., for . . . . .	28 00
1824 Cent, purchased by Keeny, for . . . . .	28 00
1791 Washington Cent, with Small Eagle, purchased by Winsor, for . . . . .	27 00
1795 Cent, thick die, purchased by Willey, for . . . . .	25 00
1796 Cent, Liberty cap, purchased by Keeny, for . . . . .	24 00
1825 Cent, purchased by A. S. J., for . . . . .	24 00
1792 Half Dime, purchased by Betts, for . . . . .	24 00
1809 Half Dime, purchased by Col. Cohen, for . . . . .	24 00
1796 Half Dime, purchased by Keeny, for . . . . .	23 00

1796 Half Dime, purchased by Keeny, for . . .	22 50
1858 Proof Set, purchased by Read, for . . .	22 50
1793 Cent, Liberty cap, purchased by Payfer, for . . .	22 50
1821 Cent, purchased by Mason & Co., for . . .	22 00
1793 Half Cent, purchased by Keeny, for . . .	21 00
1796 Cent, Fillet Head, purchased by Sanford, for . . .	20 00
1829 Cent, purchased by E. M., for . . .	20 00
Washington Eccleston Medal, purchased by Winsor, for . . .	20 00
Queen Elizabeth Crown, purchased by Col. Cohen, for . . .	20 00
1795 Half Dollar, purchased by Keeny, for . . .	18 00
Peace and Friendship, Washington Medal ; unique ; purchased by Levick, for . . .	\$16 00

The building in which the sale occurred is centrally and beautifully located upon Astor Place, just far enough from Broadway to avoid the din and confusion of that remarkably noisy thoroughfare, and in sufficient proximity to the business centre to be readily reached, with little loss of time, by a city passenger railway on one side and omnibusses on the other. The auction room of the Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co. reminds one strangely and strongly of a lecture room or court house, with its high and semicircular rostrum and railed enclosure. Upon the occasion of the coin sale, we were almost convinced by the appearance of the quietly seated audience and our venerated friend, Cogan, who appeared behind the rostrum, with catalogue in hand, that we were about to be regaled with a capital sermon ; but the sudden appearance of the handsome little auctioneer, mallet in hand, dispersed our reverie, and the sale commenced in capital style, the lively

and witty auctioneer rattling off the coins with a velocity unequalled by a first-class velocipede. Occasionally, as the sale proceeded, a quiet pun would be perpetrated at the expense of the possessor of some pun-inviting surname. One Mr. Keeny would be announced as "Keno," and thus game was made by the witty auctioneer at the expense of the purchaser, Mr. K., and created considerable merriment. An amusing comingling of surnames, having the same length and sound, produced a very clever little episode and relieved the sale of its monotony. There was a frequent calling of the name of "Mott" as purchaser, in the early portion of the sale, and when a new buyer was announced as "Nott," Mr. Cogan requested the book-keeper to observe the distinction in spelling, when a pun-loving coin dealer from a distant city remarked that the last buyer was *not* "Mott!" The auctioneer immediately replied, "After that *bon mot* we will proceed." And thus the sale went on to a successful termination, only interrupted by the applause, which occasionally burst forth as one of the series of fine American cents was knocked down for an almost fabulous price for a copper cent. When the 1793 "Ameri." cent was bid off at \$145, there was a disposition to applaud, and this applause was well merited, as all know who are familiar with the curious history of this particular coin. The sale realized nearly five thousand dollars ; the set of copper cents, numbering 87 pieces, brought the handsome sum of \$1295, the highest price ever yet obtained at a public sale for a set of cents.

#### PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

We are pleased to announce a sale of coins, which will take place early this month.

## A CHAPTER ON COINS.

*(Continued.)*

The Pine Tree money continued to be issued until 1686. The date upon the dies remained the same throughout the entire coinage, so that there is no way in which to distinguish the coins issued during the different years. Lossing, in his "Field Book of the Revolution," is responsible for the following incident: "The Mint Master, who was allowed to take fifteen pence out of every twenty shillings for his trouble in coining, made a large fortune by it. Henry Sewall, the founder of Newbury, in Massachusetts, married his only daughter, a plump girl of eighteen years. When the ceremony was ended, a large pair of scales was brought out and suspended. In one disk the blushing bride was placed, and Pine Tree shillings, as the coin was called, were poured into the other until there was an equipoise. The money was then handed to Mr. Sewall as his wife's dowry." The first coins issued by the United States were struck in the year 1787, and are called the Franklin Cents, from the supposition that they were designed by Franklin. Upon the obverse is a sun dial and above it the sun; below both is the legend, "Mind your business;" at the left, the word "Fugio," and at the right the date, 1787. The reverse shows thirteen links joined, representing the thirteen original States; within the circle formed by these links is a smaller circle, containing the legend: "We are one," this circle being surrounded by the legend, "United States." These coins were struck either at the Rhode Island or New Haven mint, there being at that time no government mint. In 1793 one was established in Philadelphia, and cents and half cents were issued. The coins of 1793 properly

commence the United States series, as they were the first struck by the government. In point of rarity, the cents rank third, those of 1799 being the most rare, 1804 next and 1793 next. The government first issued coins of silver in 1794, and gold in 1795.

*(To be continued.)*

## PECULIARITIES OF AMERICAN COINS.

## No. 15.

Several of the U. S. cents, that present a markedly peculiar appearance in consequence of a broken die or dies having been used in their coinage were spoken of in previous articles. The Liberty cap 1793, where the die was severed into two nearly equal fragments, is well known; the line on the coin, passing through the E in the legend across the head and just grazing the last figure of the date. The most disastrous batters which I have seen on any of our coppers is found on a variety of the cents of 1831 and on a half cent of 1797. In the former instances, a crack commences at the first figure of the date and turning toward the observer's left, connects every star; thus almost completely encircling the piece. Another crack from the edge, touching the first mentioned star, strikes the face below the chin and passes to the hair, anterior to the curl in front of the ear. A third crack connects those just mentioned on the field from half way between the first and second stars to half way between the first star and the face. Crack No. 4 crosses the fillet into R. in the legend. No. 5 leaves the first crack between the twelfth and thirteenth stars, count from left to right. No. 6 leaves it between the eleventh and twelfth, each of them toward the head. The seventh crack between the

seventh and eighth star, touching the corner of the letter, crosses the first mentioned outward to the edge. The eight crack touches the first star on the side next the date and runs into the lower part of the bust.

In the case of the '97 half cent (which by the way is the variety mentioned in the sixth article of this series), the cracks are four in number, as shown in the sample before me. Two of them run from the milling to the head, one passing through B, the other through Y in the legend. A third passes from the milling to the right of the Liberty pole, across the field to a point near the nose. The other extends from the junction of the pole and neck almost to the last mentioned break, not far from the chin.

With this article the writer proposes to lay down his pen for the present. He hopes that these sketches have not been altogether purposeless to his readers. Many things have been described or spoken of that were well known to some of them. The learner in numismatics has been kept in view in their preparation. Often written hastily, they are not without errors, some of which have been acknowledged. If all observers would contribute their stock of knowledge in this way, it has appeared to the writer that a deeper pleasure would accrue to collectors and light be thrown on the science. He is free, however, to acknowledge that he may have bestowed too much attention to trifles.

#### RARE AND VALUABLE GOLD COIN.

Colonel Cohen, of Baltimore, while in attendance at the McK. sale, in New York, exhibited his beautiful gold Washington Cent of 1791, which was much admired

#### NUMISMATIC PUBLICATIONS

We welcome with great pleasure a small pamphlet of 16 pages, entitled

#### VARIETIES OF THE COPPER ISSUES OF THE U. S. MINT, IN THE YEAR 1794. BY EDWARD MARIS, M. D.

This book, following so closely upon the recent publication of the Varieties of the 1793 U. S. Cents, in the New York and Philadelphia Numismatic Magazines, is a valuable and we may say exhaustive research upon the subject of the U. S. copper coinage of 1794. The author has presented to us a new field for the exploration of numismatists; a field rich in variety and interest, and one that affords renewed pleasure in the anxious search for a complete series of the different varieties of our country's coinage. This little and ably edited work on the cents and half cents of 1794 can be had on application at this office. See advertisement on cover.

#### COIN AND MEDAL CIRCULAR. BY HENRY COOK.

A small pamphlet, bearing the above title, and printed at Boston, Mass., has been sent us. This little work seems designed for the instruction of novices in the art of coin collecting, and has blank sheets of note paper bound in between the printed matter for marginal notes and references, we presume. This book will be mailed by us, to any address, for 25 cents, postage paid.

#### PROSPECTIVE COIN SALES.

Three large coin sales will take place in this city next fall, two in September and one in October. In each of these sales there will be some very rare and very fine coins in the American series. We hope to give more particulars of these sales in our next issue.

### NEW YORK COIN SALE, MAY 31.

The sale of a private collection of coins, medals and tokens took place, as announced, on Monday afternoon, May 31, at the rooms of Bangs, Merwin & Co., Broadway, New York. The attendance was fair, and some of the coins realised fair prices. The highest price paid for a coin was \$15, and this sum was paid by us for No. 38, described in the catalogue as an 1805 cent, uncirculated. An 1806 cent, brought \$4, the "*beautiful green coating*" it possessed, *vide* catalogue, not enhancing its value to any marked extent. The coins in the catalogue were greatly overrated and the composition of the catalogue matter was evidently the work of a green hand unused to the terms "fine", "very fine" and "uncirculated". Among the numismatists represented at the sale were Messrs. Levick, Stennett, Merrill, Mott, Sansom, Petrie, Staeblin (B. M.), Clarke, Auton, Dorrey, Letheridge, Nott, Illsley, Tilton, Haseltine, Huffer, Cook, Houston, Payser, Downing, Bryan, Warner, Prime, Hodge and Brevoort. Messrs. Cogan, Levick and Mason were the principal buyers.

### OUR THIRD PHILADELPHIA SALE.

The sale of Dr. Morgan's vast cabinet of Curiosities, Coins, Relics, etc., came off on June 9, occupying three days. A large crowd was in attendance on the 9th and 10th ult., but the last day's sale was interrupted, and in a measure injured, by the unfortunate occurrence of a similar sale at Thomas & Sons' Auction Store. The bidding was extremely spirited, and when the Crystals, Agates, etc., were offered, the competition was fierce and interesting, particularly to the owner

and auctioneer. One very beautiful piece of Amethystine Quartz (No. 284) was run up to \$46 50 and struck off to Prof. Wagner, of the Wagner Free Institute. Good prices were maintained throughout the Crystal collection. The animal rarities, reliques and curiosities were sold low, the birds fairly slaughtered, and on the third day of the sale, for reasons before mentioned, the coins were murdered outright, Kline and Mason dividing the honors as purchasers. Prof. Wagner purchased the greater part of the collection for his museum at the Free Institute in this city; and we were pleased to see competitors give way for the philanthropist, philosopher and scholar, Prof. W. This sale was one of the most interesting that has occurred in Philadelphia.

### UNIQUE WASHINGTON MEDAL.

We have in our possession one of Voltaire's medals of Washington (ugly head) struck in lead or white metal. We have heard of silver and copper medals designed by Voltaire, but cannot obtain any knowledge of this medal in the above metal. We believe this piece to be *unique*. Information is wanted of any collector who possesses a knowledge of the metals in which the Washington medal of Voltaire was struck.

### ANOTHER PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

The collection of coins, curiosities, autographs, etc., formerly the property of John Bertram (deceased), will be sold early this month.

### WANTED.

Autograph letters signed of Washington, Franklin and Arnold. A good price paid for each. Apply at this office.

### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. H., BOSTON.—In the Mackensie catalogue, the 1804 cent is pronounced the "King of 1804's." We should say this was a misnomer, as our dear Goddess, "Liberty" is the most prominent feature on the cent, and might more properly be termed the Queen of 1804's. If your 1804 is so perfect, why not bring it forth and take the conceit out of aforementioned "King."

T. T. R., CHICAGO.—We sent you a catalogue of the New York coin sale. We had but fifty-five copies, and our five hundred patrons were sadly treated in their distribution, but we were powerless to aid them.

L. H., JR., NEW HAVEN.—Your piece is valuable and would command a high price at any sale. The *Immune Columbias* in silver are indeed rare.

P. S. M., CINCINNATI.—Get the new work on the "Varieties of 1794 Cents and Half Cents." See cover of magazine. We shall soon issue a new and greatly improved priced coin catalogue.

E. E. P., TROY.—Yes, of course. Send on the collection, and we will add it to the next sale.

E. G., P. L., S. M. T., R. A. and others.—The crystals were carefully packed and sent per express.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

PROVIDENCE, May 24, 1869.

MR. MASON:

DEAR SIR—One word in relation to calling the dot on the reverse of U. S. cent and half cents a mint mark. I have looked over about 100 specimens and with dividers find that the dot is always in the centre. From this I deduct that it is formed by a depression in the centre of the die from which the die is laid out. I have a cent of 1816, proof, on the obverse of which to the left of the

ear the same kind of a dot occurs, and there is a fine line, hardly to be seen but for the brightness of the piece, running through the centre of each of the stars, the centre of which circle is the afore-mentioned dot. Is my theory right.

Yours, etc.,

N. W. P

### MACKENSIE COIN SALE, NEW YORK.

For a full account of this interesting sale, which occurred the 23d and 24th ultimo, see next month's issue. We had but fifty-five catalogues of this sale, and distributed them as far as they would go. If any of our subscribers failed to receive one, the blame is not ours.

### COIN SALES TO COME OFF.

We announce, as likely to occur in the fall, four coin sales, viz.: one in September and two in October at Philadelphia and one at New York, in November, all under the management and direction of Mason & Co.

### PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 30, a sale of coins, comprising 205 lots, came off at Birch & Son's auction rooms, in this city. There was nothing remarkable in the sale. Attendance and prices poor.

### WANTED.

A good reliable party to take the control of the Philadelphia Coin Depot, as we purpose opening a branch in New York, in September. A good opportunity for an enterprising man with small capital.

### NEW FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

The U. S. Treasury Department is at work upon new designs for the fifty cent, twenty five cent and ten cent notes.

## PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

REVIEW OF THE NEW U. S.  
POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued.)

The lettering "U. S. POSTAGE" and "ONE CENT" appear to be the work of an apprentice to the art of engraving, whose style has not been fully perfected—the letters being of unequal size. There is a piece of No. 1. court plaster fixed upon the left breast of Franklin which interrupts the view of our departed philosopher, and gives to the head an appearance similar to that of a policeman, or fireman, as the badge with the figure one is in about the right place for either.

## TWO CENT STAMP.

Now the color changes from the dirty yellow brown to a dingy dark brown, and here we have a beautiful frame work, or banner, such as carried in processions, with picture in the field of a 2.40 horse going over a race course, well fenced in, with a Dutch cavalry soldier, having his canteen or beer keg strapped in his rear. The large letters of "POSTAGE" and "TWO CENTS" are very irregular in size, and the letters T and C in lower line seem to have been hurriedly executed and left unfinished. It was a happy idea in the engraver to affix the the big 2 between the words two and CENTS as no mistake can now possibly occur in giving this stamp its proper denomination. The scroll work and lace on the upper curtain are very neat and would make a fair sign for a country carver, painter, or a city dry goods store. The rail fence at the left, in the rear of field, is slightly inaccurate, there being but two rails between the posts. This portion of the stamp seems to have been left half finished.

## THREE CENT STAMP.

This stamp is an improvement on the *two cent* issue, as here the horse and rider is displaced in the field by the locomotive, and therefore it is better in regard to *time* than the previous stamp. The color is also better, it being a *true blue*, or a *marine blue*, or an *ultra marine* (no doubt an error in design, as the *ultra marine* ought to have a sailing vessel, and not a locomotive,) either will designate its tint when not blurred in the printing. This stamp has the same faulty lettering, with an improvement in the label containing the word "POSTAGE". As the 3c. stamp will be more generally used than others of the new series, we will not give a more detailed description of its beauties until time has toned down our prejudices and caused us to forget the former 3c. stamp with its good color, and its portrait of the glorious and God-like Washington.

(To be continued.)

## NEW ISSUES.

## HOLLAND.

We have seen specimens of a one and a half cent stamp, hailing from Holland. The design is the same as the one and two cent, and the color a delicate rose.

## ANTIOQUIA.

*The Stamp Collectors' Magazine* chronicles the emission of a series of postals for this state or would be state. It seems, the citizens of that peaceful land are again on the "war path;" this time Antioquia is trying to dissolve her connection with the Republic of New Granada. We presume they have so far succeeded as to warrant the belief that their cause has triumphed, and have issued the following labels:

2½	centavo,	blue.
5	do	light green.
10	do	mauve.
20	do	chocolate.

1 peso, dark rose.

The design is somewhat similar to the last issue of the Granadine Republic. In an oval are the arms of Colombia, surrounded by nine stars, encircled by the inscription E. S. Antioquia; E. E., U. U., D. E. Colombia. At the top of each stamp correos, and at the foot is given the value.

#### ITALY.

The old *segna tassa* stamp is shortly to be superseded by a new design. Supplies have already been forwarded to the postmasters, but the stock of the old ones will first be used up.

#### NEW GRANADA.

The current 10 centavos is now printed in bright violet, and the 50 centavos, bluish green.

#### CEYLON.

*The American Journal of Philately* gives us news that the word *service* is now printed across the face of the stamps of this island.

#### GAMBIA.

We annex an engraving of the four penny stamp of this colony. The set consists of two values: the four pence, dark brown, and the six pence, dark blue.—

The design is in relief.

#### ROUMANIA.



The annexed cut is one of the issue described in our last number.

#### FRANCE.



We give an engraving of the French Journal Stamp. There are six values and colors, viz.

2 cents and 5 cents, violet.

2 cents and 5 cents, blue.

2 cents and 5 cents, red.

#### "PHILATELISM" AS A FINE ART.

BY C. F.

(Continued.)

Those who take an interest in stamp collections may be divided into amateurs and artistes; and the value of collections is very differently gauged by members of these two classes according to the intelligence they may possess or the ardor they may feel on the subject. The collection of Mr. Stewart, the sugar merchant, for instance, is variously estimated by the postage-stamp *dilettanti* from five hundred dollars to two thousand dollars, and it is probable that the first figure is the more correct.

Descriptive catalogues give the denomination, color, date, device and value of both used and unused American and foreign postage stamps, issued since 1840, and representative of nearly one hundred and forty nationalities. The uniform rate of one penny per half ounce for letters came into operation at the General Post Office, London, January 10, 1840. The use of stamps, which formed one of the numerous means suggested by Rowland Hill for facilitating the dispatch of letters, was introduced on the tenth of the following May. During 1840 and the two following

years, all other nations hesitated. At length, republican Switzerland and imperial Brazil took courage in 1843. New York, Providence, St. Louis, Brattleboro' and New Orleans anticipated the decision of the General Government in 1845, simultaneously with Finland. In 1847, the use of stamps became general throughout the United States and Russia. France and Belgium followed in 1849, after which the postage stamp became indispensable and ubiquitous.

It has been said that the use of postage stamps was suggested by Rowland Hill, but that gentleman probably is partly indebted for his invention to the fact that as early as 1653 a plan existed for the collection of postage by that means. About that year, a certain M. de Valayer obtained from Louis XIV permission to place, throughout Paris, boxes for the receipt of letters with stamped covers. The stamped covers sold for a *sou* apiece. A veritable letter thus stamped is still extant, and is doubtless the oldest prepaid communication in existence. Sir Rowland Hill's suggestion is also claimed by a Mr. Whiting and a Mr. Stead, but his own account gives the original credit of it to Charles Knight. From whatever source, however, the idea of postage stamps originated, Sir Rowland has made it his own by his ingenious application and modifications of it.

To return, however, to the use of the postage stamp by the more refined civilization of the nineteenth century. Simultaneously with the issuing of the first English postage stamp, in 1840, appeared the penny envelope, of most novel and artistic design. The device was the joint production of Queen Victoria and Mulready, the great painter. It represents Britannia seated, the con-

ventional lion at her feet. With extended arms she dispatches winged messengers to all parts of the world. The design covered three-fourths of the entire envelope and represented heavily-laden ships of commerce bearing to civilized shores the exchangeable products of all quarters of the globe. For some reason, never clearly understood, this unique envelope was soon withdrawn from circulation and many thousands of copies were destroyed. Copies are therefore now quite scarce, and are valued at two and a half dollars apiece.

(*To be continued.*)

*Le Timbophile* for April 30, has the following upon the new St. Thomas stamps: "Were these stamps really required by the Clara Rothe Company, which has ceased to exist, or are they the fruits of a speculation, like so many others that we have seen? We should be inclined to adopt the latter opinion; the prices, more than moderate, at which we have seen these stamps sold, give us good reason to think that they have never made the voyage from St. Thomas to Paris, and that they ought to find place in that "timbro-postal mythology" which we purpose shortly to write."

Commissioner Delano is considering the propriety of adopting new stamps for Tobacco, and also a new method of cancelling stamps, a patent for which has just been taken out by a citizen of Ohio (probably a Philatelist). It is claimed that the stamp cannot be counterfeited and it will be impossible to use it a second time.

#### DEALERS IN BOGUS STAMPS.

E. W. W. & Co., Boston, Mass.  
W. H. & Co., do.

**MASON & CO'S CHEAP COIN  
PACKETS !**

**U. S. CENTS.**

Packet. No.		Condition.	Price.
1	1793	very poor.	\$ 50
2	1793	very fair.	1 50
3	1793	very good.	3 00
4	1794, '95 '96	good.	1 50
5	1794, '95 '96	extra good.	2 50
6	1797, '98	very good.	50
7	1799	very poor.	2 00
8	1799	very fair.	5 00
9	1799	very good.	10 00
10	1800, '1, '2 '3	very good.	1 25
11	1804	fair.	1 50
12	1804	very fair.	2 50
13	1804	good.	5 00
14	1805, '06 '07	poor.	25
15	1805, '06 '07	fair.	50
16	1805, '06 '07	good.	1 50
17	1808	fair.	25
18	1808	good.	50
19	1809	poor.	50
20	1809	good.	1 50
21	1810, '11 '12	poor.	25
22	1810, '11 '12	very good.	1 00
23	1813, '14 '16	good.	50
24	1817, '20	very good.	40
25	1821, '24	good.	30
26	1825, '30	very good.	30
27	1857	very good.	15

(All other dates, 1831 to 1856 inclusive, 5 cents each. Special terms by letter for finer cents.)

**U. S. HALF CENTS.**

Packet. No.		Condition.	Price.
28	1793	poor.	1 50
29	1793	good.	3 00
30	1794, '95	fair.	50
31	1794, '95	good.	1 00
32	1797, 1800	fair.	50
33	1803, '4, '5, '6, '7,	very good.	50
34	1808, '09, '10,	very good.	50
35	1825, '29	very good.	25
36	1832, '35	very good.	25
37	1849, '51	very good.	15
38	1853, '57	very good.	50
39	No. 28 to 39,		3 00
40	1802, '11	very fair.	3 00

**COLONIALS.**

41	Conn. and N. J.	good.	25
42	Vir. and Mass.	good.	1 00
43	Ver. and N. Y.	good.	1 75
44	Const., 2,	good.	1 00
45	Louisiana R. F.	good.	1 00
46	Rosa Ameri.	penny, fair.	2 00
47	do	do good.	3 50
48	do	halfpenny, fair.	1 00
49	do	do good.	2 00

50	Franklin cent.	good.	75
51	Washington, 1783,	good.	50
52	do 1791,	poor.	3 50
53	do 1791,	good.	5 00
54	N. A. Token, 1781,	good.	50
55	Pitt Token, 1776,	fair.	1 25

**PATTERNS.**

56	1856 Nickel,	good.	1 50
57	do very fine.	1 75	
58	do proof.	2 50	
59	Indian Head, 1858, nickel,		
	good.	1 25	
60	do do proof.	1 50	
61	Flying Eagle, 1855, fine.	1 25	
62	1854 no stars cent, fine.	1 75	
63	1836 silver dollar, ex. good.	5 00	
64	1863 2 cent piece, proof.	5 00	
65	do proof.	5 00	

**FOREIGN COINS.**

66	12 different,	very good.	50
67	15 do	very good.	1 00
68	10 do	extra fine.	1 50
69	5 Roman coins,	good.	1 00
70	5 silver coins,	good.	50
71	10 do	do	1 00
72	25 do	do	5 00

**STORE CARDS.**

73	10 cards,	good.	35
74	10 cards,	fine.	50

All the above sent by mail free of postage. Prices furnished and rare coins obtained, in any condition, upon application. Lists corrected monthly.

**THE OLD COIN.**

A massy lump of brass and bronze, Molded by ponderous blow on blow, For Nero or Vespasian's son, In ages dim and long ago.
A cruel mouth, a swinish chin, A wolfish eye, almost erased ; But half the date—a victory— Two words, and those almost defaced.
Where is the Golden Palace now That on the Palatine arose ? Where are the statue-guarded doors ? Where are the temple porticos ? For disks of metal shaped like this, Swords have been drawn and Lethe crossed ; For this, in greedy hope, men's souls Have been by passions tempest-tossed.
This is Ambition's rich reward ; This is a buried Caesar's fame ; Upon a lump of rusty bronze, The two-thirds of a doubtful name